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Agenda item 92 (a)

Training and research: United Nations Institute for Training and Research

Report of the Second Committee*

Rapporteur: Mr. Azanaw Tadesse **Abreha** (Ethiopia)

I. Introduction

1. The Second Committee held a substantive debate on agenda item 92 (a) (see A/59/490, para. 2). Action on sub-item (a) was taken at the 36th and 39th meetings, on 24 November and 14 December 2004. An account of the Committee's consideration of the sub-item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/59/SR.36 and 39).

II. Consideration of draft resolutions A/C.2/59/L.51 and A/C.2/59/L.65

2. At the 36th meeting, on 24 November, the representative of Qatar, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled "United Nations Institute for Training and Research" (A/C.2/59/L.51). The draft resolution read as follows:

"*The General Assembly*,

"*Recalling* its resolutions 51/188 of 16 December 1996, 52/206 of 18 December 1997, 53/195 of 15 December 1998, 54/229 of 22 December 1999, 55/208 of 20 December 2000, 56/208 of 21 December 2001, 57/268 of 20 December 2002 and 58/223 of 23 December 2003,

"*Having considered* the reports of the Secretary-General and the Executive Director of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research,

* The report of the Committee on this item will be issued in three parts, under the symbol A/59/490 and Add.1 and 2.

"*Noting* the continued progress made by the Institute in its various programmes and activities, including the strengthened cooperation with other organizations of the United Nations system and with regional and national institutions,

"*Expressing its appreciation* to the Governments and private institutions that have made or pledged financial and other contributions to the Institute,

"*Noting with concern* that contributions to the General Fund have remained low, while the bulk of the resources contributed to the Institute is directed to the Special Purpose Grants Fund, and noting that the participation of the developed countries in training programmes in New York and Geneva is increasing,

"*Expressing its concern* that the Institute receives no subsidy from the United Nations regular budget and that it provides training programmes to all Member States free of charge,

"*Reiterating* that training activities should be accorded a more visible and larger role in support of the management of international affairs and in the execution of the economic and social development programmes of the United Nations system,

"1. *Reaffirms* the importance of a coordinated United Nations system-wide approach to research and training, based on an effective coherent strategy and an effective division of work among the relevant institutions and bodies;

"2. *Also reaffirms* the relevance of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research, in view of the growing importance of training within the United Nations and the training requirements of States, and the relevance of the training-related research activities undertaken by the Institute within its mandate;

"3. *Welcomes* the progress made in building partnerships between the Institute and other organizations and bodies of the United Nations system with respect to their training programmes, and in this context underlines the need to develop further and to expand the scope of those partnerships, in particular at the country level;

"4. *Notes with appreciation* the activities of the Institute's Hiroshima Office for Asia and the Pacific during its first year of existence;

"5. *Welcomes* the establishment of the Institute's Project Field Office in Dushanbe;

"6. *Requests* the Board of Trustees of the Institute to continue to ensure fair and equitable geographical distribution and transparency in the preparation of the programmes and in the employment of experts, and in this regard stresses that the courses of the Institute should focus primarily on development issues and the management of international affairs;

"7. *Renews its appeal* to all Governments, in particular those of developed countries, and to private institutions that have not yet contributed financially or otherwise to the Institute, to give it their generous financial and other support, and urges the States that have interrupted their voluntary

contributions to consider resuming them in view of the successful restructuring and revitalization of the Institute;

"8. *Encourages* the Board of Trustees of the Institute to continue its efforts to resolve the critical financial situation of the Institute, in particular with a view to broadening its donor base and to further increasing the contributions to the General Fund;

"9. *Also encourages* the Board of Trustees to consider diversifying further the venues of the events organized by the Institute and to include the cities hosting regional commissions, in order to promote greater participation and reduce costs;

"10. *Stresses once again* the need to take action to resolve expeditiously the issues related to the Institute's rent, debt, rental rates and maintenance costs, taking into account its financial situation, and welcomes the continued consideration of those issues by the Fifth Committee;

"11. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixtieth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution, including details on the status of contributions to and the financial situation of the Institute."

3. At the 39th meeting, on 14 December, the Rapporteur of the Committee, Azanaw Tadesse Abreha (Ethiopia), introduced a draft resolution entitled "United Nations Institute for Training and Research" (A/C.2/59/L.65), which he submitted on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/59/L.51 (see A/C.2/59/SR.39). In introducing the draft resolution, the Rapporteur orally corrected the seventh preambular paragraph by replacing the words "does not receive" with the words "not receiving"; and replacing the words "and provides" with the words ", and delivers".

4. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/59/L.65 as orally corrected (see para. 7) (see A/C.2/59/SR.39).

5. After the adoption of the draft resolution, the representative of the United States of America made a statement.

6. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/59/L.65, draft resolution A/C.2/59/L.51 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

III. Recommendation of the Second Committee

7. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

United Nations Institute for Training and Research

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 51/188 of 16 December 1996, 52/206 of 18 December 1997, 53/195 of 15 December 1998, 54/229 of 22 December 1999, 55/208 of 20 December 2000, 56/208 of 21 December 2001, 57/268 of 20 December 2002 and 58/223 of 23 December 2003,

Having considered the reports of the Secretary-General[1] and the Executive Director of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research,[2]

Acknowledging the work of the Board of Trustees of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research on the functioning of the Institute,

Noting the continued progress made by the Institute in its various programmes and activities, including the strengthened cooperation with other organizations of the United Nations system and with regional and national institutions,

Expressing its appreciation to the Governments and private institutions that have made or pledged financial and other contributions to the Institute,

Noting that the bulk of the resources contributed to the Institute is directed to the Special Purpose Grants Fund rather than to the General Fund, stressing the need to address that unbalanced situation and also noting that the participation of the developed countries in training programmes in New York and Geneva is increasing,

Noting also that the Institute is self-funded, not receiving any kind of subsidies from the United Nations regular budget, and delivers, free of charge, training courses to diplomats and delegates accredited to United Nations Headquarters in New York and to the United Nations offices at Geneva, Vienna and Nairobi,

Noting also the various ongoing training programmes of the Institute, including those in the field of sustainable development,

Reiterating that training activities should be accorded a more visible and larger role in support of the management of international affairs and in the execution of the economic and social development programmes of the United Nations system,

1. *Reaffirms* the importance of a coordinated United Nations system-wide approach to research and training, based on an effective coherent strategy and an effective division of work among the relevant institutions and bodies;

2. *Also reaffirms* the relevance of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research, in view of the growing importance of training within the United Nations and the training requirements of States, and the relevance of the training-related research activities undertaken by the Institute within its mandate;

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[1] A/59/230.

[2] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 14* (A/59/14).

3. *Welcomes* the progress made in building partnerships between the Institute and other organizations and bodies of the United Nations system with respect to their training programmes, and in this context underlines the need to develop further and to expand the scope of those partnerships, in particular at the country level;

4. *Notes with appreciation* the activities of the Institute's Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific in Hiroshima, Japan, during its first year of existence;

5. *Welcomes* the establishment of the Institute's Project Field Office in Dushanbe;

6. *Requests* the Board of Trustees of the Institute to continue to ensure fair and equitable geographical distribution and transparency in the preparation of the programmes and in the employment of experts, and in this regard stresses that the courses of the Institute should focus primarily on development issues and the management of international affairs;

7. *Renews its appeal* to all Governments, in particular those of developed countries, and to private institutions that have not yet contributed financially or otherwise to the Institute, to give it their generous financial and other support, and urges the States that have interrupted their voluntary contributions to consider resuming them in view of the successful restructuring and revitalization of the Institute;

8. *Encourages* the Board of Trustees to consider diversifying further the venues of the events organized by the Institute and to include the cities hosting regional commissions, in order to promote greater participation and reduce costs;

9. *Notes with appreciation* the one-time provision to cancel the Institute's past debts decided upon in section XIV of General Assembly resolution 58/272 of 23 December 2003;

10. *Stresses* the need for continued consideration of the issues related to the Institute's rent, rental rates and maintenance costs, taking into account its financial situation, with a view to its expeditious resolution;

11. *Encourages* the Board of Trustees of the Institute to continue its efforts to resolve the critical financial situation of the Institute, in particular with a view to broadening its donor base and to further increasing the contributions to the General Fund;

12. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixtieth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution, including details on the status of contributions to and the financial situation of the Institute, and decides to consider the issue of the periodicity of the agenda item entitled "Training and research" at its sixtieth session.

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Agenda item 92 (b)

Training and research: United Nations University

Report of the Second Committee*

Rapporteur: Mr. Azanaw Tadesse **Abreha** (Ethiopia)

I. Introduction

1. The Second Committee held a substantive debate on agenda item 92 (b) (see A/59/490, para. 2). Action on sub-item (b) was taken at the 35th and 39th meetings, on 17 November and 14 December 2004. An account of the Committee's consideration of the sub-item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/59/SR.35 and 39).

II. Consideration of draft resolution A/C.2/59/L.35 and Rev.1

2. At the 35th meeting, on 17 November, the representative of Japan, on behalf of Andorra, Angola, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Bhutan, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Cyprus, Denmark, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Gabon, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Haiti, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lithuania, Malawi, Micronesia (Federated States of), Morocco, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, the Niger, Pakistan, Palau, Panama, the Philippines, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Swaziland, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Tuvalu, Ukraine and Viet Nam, introduced a draft resolution (A/C.2/59/L.35) entitled "United Nations University" and informed the Committee that Algeria had withdrawn from the list of sponsors.

3. At the same meeting, the representative of Japan orally revised the draft resolution as follows:

* The report of the Committee on this item will be issued in three parts, under the symbol A/59/490 and Add.1 and 2.

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(a) In operative paragraph 3, after the words "from developing countries", the words "and the economies in transition" were inserted;

(b) In operative paragraph 4, after the words "in Bonn", the word "Germany" was inserted.

4. The draft resolution, as orally revised, read:

"*The General Assembly*,

"*Reaffirming* its previous resolutions on the United Nations University, including resolution 57/267 of 20 December 2002,

"*Having considered* the report of the Council of the United Nations University, as presented by the Rector of the University on 16 November 2004, and the report of the Secretary-General,

"*Bearing in mind* the importance of the intellectual contributions made by the University for the United Nations system,

"*Expressing its deep appreciation* for the voluntary contributions made by Governments and other public and private entities in support of the University,

"1. *Notes with satisfaction* the implementation of the 'Strategic Plan, 2000: Advancing Knowledge for Human Security and Development', which lays out broad programmatic orientations with special focus on the priority concerns of the United Nations and the need to bring together theory and practice in a global perspective, and requests the United Nations University to continue to attach importance to the priority agendas of the United Nations system;

"2. *Highly appreciates* the successful steps taken by the University to promote the work and visibility of the University, including its research and training centres and programmes, to strengthen interaction with and contributions to the work of the United Nations system and to create new networks of activity with the academic communities in host countries, including Japan, and encourages the University to continue with such efforts;

"3. *Expresses particular appreciation* of the University's support to scholars from developing countries and the economies in transition, especially young scholars, through its capacity and network development activities;

"4. *Congratulates* the University on the inauguration of the new research and training programme on Environment and Human Security in Bonn, Germany, and encourages it to continue with efforts towards creating a critical mass of viable research and training centres and programmes around the world, focused in particular on meeting the urgent needs and concerns of developing countries;

"5. *Welcomes* the adoption and use by the University of computer-mediated dissemination and learning technologies through the United Nations University Online Learning Initiative, and in particular the establishment of the Global Virtual University, which facilitates the intensification of activities in the areas of education and training, and encourages the further strengthening of these activities;

"6. *Takes note with satisfaction* of the consolidation of the joint initiative by the University and the United Nations Office at Geneva to convene a yearly research and policy dialogue that is thematically focused and involves the United Nations system and other entities engaged in policy research and analysis;

"7. *Encourages* the University to continue its efforts to implement the Secretary-General's suggestion on innovative measures to improve interaction and communication between the University and other United Nations entities, in particular by identifying and giving priority to common themes of interest;

"8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to encourage other bodies of the United Nations system to utilize more fully the capacity of the University for mobilizing a worldwide network of applied policy researchers to assist the United Nations, through research and capacity development, in resolving pressing global problems;

"9. *Appreciates* the efficiency gains achieved by the University in order to make optimal use of modest and limited resources, and emphasizes the continuing need for cost-effectiveness in conducting the activities of the University;

"10. *Welcomes* the University's increasing efforts to widen and diversify its financial base, and invites the international community to make voluntary contributions to the University, in particular to its Endowment Fund, as a means of consolidating the distinctive identity of the University in the United Nations system and the international academic community;

"11. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-first session an item entitled 'United Nations University'."

5. At the 39th meeting, on 14 December 2004, the representative of Japan introduced a revised draft resolution (A/C.2/59/L.35/Rev.1) entitled "United Nations University" and orally revised it by inserting, in operative paragraph 3, after the words "from developing countries and the", the words "countries with".

6. Also at the 39th meeting, the following countries joined in sponsoring the revised draft resolution: Algeria, Botswana, Cape Verde, the Comoros, the Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, El Salvador, Eritrea, India, Lesotho, Mongolia, Namibia, Nepal, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Serbia and Montenegro, the Sudan, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tunisia, Yemen and Zimbabwe.

7. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/59/L.35/Rev.1 as orally revised (see para. 8).

III. Recommendation of the Second Committee

8. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

United Nations University

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its previous resolutions on the United Nations University, including resolution 57/267 of 20 December 2002,

Having considered the report of the Council of the United Nations University,[1] as presented by the Rector of the University on 16 November 2004, and the report of the Secretary-General,[2]

Bearing in mind the importance of the intellectual contributions made by the University for the United Nations system,

Expressing its deep appreciation for the voluntary contributions made by Governments and other public and private entities in support of the University,

1. *Notes with satisfaction* the implementation of the "Strategic Plan, 2000", which lays out broad programmatic orientations with special focus on the priority concerns of the United Nations and the need to bring together theory and practice in a global perspective, and requests the United Nations University to continue to attach importance to the priority agendas of the United Nations system;

2. *Highly appreciates* the successful steps taken by the University to promote the work and visibility of the University, including its research and training centres and programmes, to strengthen interaction with and contributions to the work of the United Nations system and to create new networks of activity with the academic communities in host countries, including Japan, and encourages the University to continue with such efforts;

3. *Expresses particular appreciation* of the University's support to scholars from developing countries and the countries with economies in transition, especially young scholars, through its capacity and network development activities;

4. *Notes with interest* the inauguration of the new Research and Training Programme in Bonn, Germany, and encourages the University to continue with efforts towards creating a critical mass of viable research and training centres and programmes around the world, focused in particular on meeting the urgent needs and concerns of developing countries;

5. *Welcomes* the adoption and use by the University of computer-mediated dissemination and learning technologies through the United Nations University Online Learning Initiative, and in particular the establishment of the Global Virtual University, which facilitates the intensification of activities in the areas of education and training, and encourages the further strengthening of these activities;

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[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 31* (A/59/31).

[2] A/59/566.

6. *Takes note with satisfaction* of the consolidation of the joint initiative by the University and the United Nations Office at Geneva to convene a yearly research and policy dialogue that is thematically focused and involves the United Nations system and other entities engaged in policy research and analysis;

7. *Encourages* the University to continue its efforts to implement the Secretary-General's suggestion on innovative measures to improve interaction and communication between the University and other United Nations entities, in particular by identifying and giving priority to common themes of interest;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to encourage other bodies of the United Nations system to utilize more fully the capacity of the University for mobilizing a worldwide network of applied policy researchers to assist the United Nations, through research and capacity development, in resolving pressing global problems;

9. *Appreciates* the efficiency gains achieved by the University in order to make optimal use of modest and limited resources, and emphasizes the continuing need for cost-effectiveness in conducting the activities of the University;

10. *Welcomes* the University's increasing efforts to widen and diversify its financial base, and invites the international community to make voluntary contributions to the University, in particular to its Endowment Fund, as a means of consolidating the distinctive identity of the University in the United Nations system and the international academic community;

11. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-first session an item entitled "United Nations University".